

## Cyber-defense offers automatic response to intrusion

by *Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently awarded a \$2,817,800 contract to the Boeing Company Phantom Works Division of Seattle, Wash., for the development of software to defend against information warfare attacks across various domains.

The 20-month agreement is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of Arlington, Va.

“Boeing researchers will develop technology for the automatic, cooperative response to intrusions into computer networks — ranging in size from small to very large — spanning numerous administrative domains,” said Walt Tirenin, program manager in the directorate’s Defensive Information Warfare Branch.

“These domains typically operate with different security

policies and procedures,” Tirenin said. “This complicates the exchange of intrusion and response information, due to the risk of inadvertent release of sensitive internal information. Boeing will develop trust mechanisms to allow controlled exchange of information required for correlation and detection of large-scale attacks, without unnecessarily compromising each domain’s sensitive information.”

“There are currently no automated mechanisms for the safe exchange of attack information, due to the distrust that often exists among separately administered domains, such as between different nations and commercial organizations,” Tirenin said. The technology will also offer enhanced security for large commercial and corporate organizations in the private sector. @